

1            **CLAIMS**

2            1. A graphical user interface for a media player, the graphical user  
3            interface comprising:

4            a button associated with accessing media stored on a computing system;  
5            and

6            an actuation mechanism to enable a user to select the button, whereupon  
7            selection of the button causes the media player to obtain information regarding  
8            media available to the user and to display the information regarding media  
9            available to the user in a hierarchical manner.

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11            2. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 1 wherein the display of  
12            information regarding media available to the user includes a listing of audio files  
13            arranged by artist.

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15            3. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 1 wherein the display of  
16            information regarding media available to the user includes a listing of audio files  
17            arranged by album.

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19            4. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 1 wherein the display of  
20            information regarding media available to the user includes a list of audio files  
21            arranged by genre.

1       5. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 1 wherein the display of  
2 information regarding media available to the user includes at least one media  
3 device.

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5       6. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 1 wherein the display of  
6 information regarding media available to the user includes a plurality of playlists.

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8       7. A graphical user interface for a media player, the graphical user  
9 interface comprising:

10       a media access button associated with accessing media stored on a  
11 computing system; and

12       a hierarchical menu associated with the media access button, the  
13 hierarchical menu listing media available to the user of the computing system,  
14 whereupon selection of an entry in the hierarchical menu causes the media player  
15 to play a media item associated with the selection.

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17       8. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
18 the hierarchical menu is a listing of media items arranged by artist.

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20       9. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
21 the hierarchical menu is a listing of media items arranged by album.

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23       10. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
24 the hierarchical menu is a listing of media items arranged by genre.

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2       **11.**   A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
3 the hierarchical menu is a listing of available media drives.

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5       **12.**   A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
6 the hierarchical menu is a playlist of media items.

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8       **13.**   A graphical user interface as recited in claim 7 wherein the entry in  
9 the hierarchical menu is a listing of streaming media links.

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11      **14.**   A method comprising:  
12           receiving a request for media data from a media access client;  
13           identifying one or more stored media items;  
14           identifying one or more stored media lists; and  
15           providing information regarding the one or more stored media items and  
16 the one or more stored media lists to the media access client.

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18      **15.**   A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising categorizing the  
19 information regarding the one or more stored media items and the one or more  
20 stored media lists.

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22      **16.**   A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
23 media items include audio files.

1           **17.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
2 media items include video files.

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4           **18.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
5 media items include streaming media links.

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7           **19.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
8 media lists include lists of audio files arranged by audio file artist.

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10          **20.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
11 media lists include lists of audio files arranged by an album associated with the  
12 each audio file.

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14          **21.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the one or more stored  
15 media lists include lists of audio files arranged by a genre associated with the each  
16 audio file.

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18          **22.** A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising:  
19            identifying one or more stored playlists; and  
20            providing information regarding the one or more stored playlists to the  
21 media access client.

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23          **23.** A method as recited in claim 22 wherein the one or more stored  
24 playlists are user-specified playlists.

1           **24.**    A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising:  
2            identifying one or more media devices; and  
3            providing information regarding the one or more media devices to the  
4 media access client.

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6           **25.**    A method as recited in claim 24 wherein the one or more media  
7 devices are CD players.

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9           **26.**    A method as recited in claim 24 wherein the one or more media  
10 devices are DVD players.

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12          **27.**    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
13 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
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16          **28.**    A method comprising:  
17            generating a request for media data;  
18            receiving information regarding one or more media items;  
19            receiving information regarding one or more media devices;  
20            categorizing the information regarding the one or more media items and the  
21 one or more media devices; and  
22            generating a user interface containing the categorized information.

1           **29.**    A method as recited in claim 28 further comprising:  
2            receiving information regarding one or more media lists; and  
3            categorizing the information regarding the one or more media lists.

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5           **30.**    A method as recited in claim 28 further comprising:  
6            receiving information regarding one or more playlists; and  
7            categorizing the information regarding the one or more playlists.

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9           **31.**    A method as recited in claim 28 further comprising:  
10          receiving a user selection entered through the user interface, wherein the  
11        user selection has an associated operation; and  
12          communicating the associated operation to a media access server.

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14          **32.**    A method as recited in claim 31 wherein the media access server  
15        performs the associated operation.

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17          **33.**    A method as recited in claim 31 wherein the associated operation is  
18        playing a media item.

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20          **34.**    A method as recited in claim 28 wherein the one or more media  
21        items include audio files.

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23          **35.**    A method as recited in claim 28 wherein the one or more media  
24        items include video files.

1           **36.** A method as recited in claim 28 wherein the one or more media  
2 items include streaming media links.

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4           **37.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
5 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
6 28.

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8           **38.** A method comprising:  
9           receiving a request for media data from a media access client;  
10          identifying one or more media items stored in a media database;  
11          identifying one or more media lists stored in a media database;  
12          identifying one or more media devices; and  
13          providing information regarding the one or more media items, the one or  
14 more media lists, and the one or more stored media devices to the media access  
15 client.

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17          **39.** A method as recited in claim 38 further comprising:  
18          receiving a request to perform an operation from the media access client;  
19 and  
20          performing the requested operation.

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22          **40.** A method as recited in claim 39 wherein performing the requested  
23 operation includes playing a media item.

1       **41.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
3 38.  
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5       **42.** An apparatus comprising:  
6           a media access server;  
7           a media database coupled to the media access server;  
8           a first media device coupled to the media access server;  
9           a first media access client coupled to the media access server; and  
10          a second media access client coupled to the media access server, wherein  
11        the media access server identifies media items stored in the media database and  
12        provides information regarding the identified media items and the first media  
13        device to the first media access client and the second media access client.

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15       **43.** An apparatus as recited in claim 42 further comprising a user  
16        interface generator coupled to the first media access client, wherein the user  
17        interface generator.

1           **44.** An apparatus as recited in claim 42 further comprising:

2           a first user interface generator coupled to the first media access client,  
3 wherein the first user interface generator generates a first user interface based on  
4 information received from the first media access client; and

5           a second user interface generator coupled to the second media access client,  
6 wherein the second user interface generator generates a second user interface  
7 based on information received from the second media access client.

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9           **45.** An apparatus as recited in claim 44 wherein the first user interface  
10 includes information regarding media items stored in the media database.

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12           **46.** An apparatus as recited in claim 44 wherein the first user interface  
13 includes information regarding media files stored in the media database, media  
14 lists stored in the media database, and information regarding the first media  
15 device.

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17           **47.** An apparatus comprising:

18           means for identifying at least one media item, at least one media list, and at  
19 least one media device;

20           means for storing information regarding the at least one media item, the at  
21 least one media list, and the at least one media device;

22           means for providing information regarding the at least one media item, the  
23 at least one media list, and the at least one media device to a requesting media  
24 access client;

1           wherein the means for identifying at least one media item, at least one  
2 media list, and at least one media device further performs media-related operations  
3 for the requesting media access client.

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5           **48.** An apparatus as recited in claim 47 further comprising means for  
6 generating a user interface containing information related to the at least one media  
7 item, at least one media list, and at least one media device.

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9           **49.** An apparatus as recited in claim 47 wherein the one or more media  
10 lists include audio files associated with a particular artist.

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12           **50.** An apparatus as recited in claim 47 wherein the one or more media  
13 lists include audio files associated with a particular album.

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15           **51.** An apparatus as recited in claim 47 wherein the one or more media  
16 lists include audio files associated with a particular genre of music.

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18           **52.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
19 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one  
20 or more processors to:

21           receive a request for media data from a media access client;  
22           identify one or more stored audio files;  
23           identify one or more stored media lists;  
24           identify one or more media devices; and

1 provide information regarding the one or more stored audio files, the one or  
2 more stored media lists, and the one or more media devices to the media access  
3 client.

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5 **53.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 52  
6 wherein the one or more processors further categorize the information regarding  
7 the one or more stored audio files, the one or more stored media lists, and the one  
8 or more media devices.

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10 **54.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 52  
11 wherein the one or more processors further performs media-related operations for  
12 the requesting media access client.

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